

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 106075 TOSEC 040133
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:WGBOWDLER:SBA
APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY
S/S- ORPERITO
AF:TWSEELYE

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O 100440Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106075 TOSEC 040133

NODIS
CHEROKEE, FOR SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652:XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, SF

SUBJECT:CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA ON
YOUNG VISIT

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, I
CALLED FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA AT 2:00 A.M. PRETORIA TIME
TO RELAY OUR DEEP CONCERN OVER THEIR AIDE MEMOIRE AND
TO ASK FOR A RECONSIDERATION OF THEIR DECISION IN ORDER
TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OUR MUTUAL LONG TERM INTERESTS AS
WELL AS PROBLEMS WITH THE HOLDING OF THE VIENNA MEETING.
HE INDICATED HE WOULD TALK TO THE PRIME MINISTER FIRST
THING IN THE MORNING, AND THAT HE WOULD BE MUCH HELPED
BY MY SUGGESTION THAT THE VISIT COULD BE NARROWED IN TIME
AND CONTENT. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE OUTSET OF HIS RESPONSE, BOTHA SAID THAT HE
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WANTED TO BE CANDID ABOUT THE MAIN PROBLEM WITH THE
VISIT. NEVER IN HIS EXPERIENCE HAD HE COME ACROSS THE
PHENOMENOM OF CONTINUED INSULTS AND DEROGATORY REMARKS
FROM A HIGH OFFICIAL OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. IN THE PAST,
THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE USG HAD ALWAYS OPPOSED
SOUTH AFRICA POLICY, BUT IN A WAY THAT THEY COULD
HANDLE. BOTHA NOTED THAT HE HAD GONE OUT OF HIS WAY

SINCE RETURNING TO HIS COUNTRY TO BE HELPFUL AND TO

FACILITATE FAVORABLE ACTION ON THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

3. I TOLD BOTHA THAT I VERY MUCH APPRECIATED HIS
CANDOR. I INDICATED THAT WE HAD HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR
THE VIENNA MEETING BUT IF THE SAG ADHERED TO THE POSITION
TAKEN IN ITS AIDE MEMOIRE IT WOULD PUT US IN A MOST
DIFFICULT POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE HOLDING OF THOSE
TALKS AS WELL AS PRESENTING A LONGER TERM PROBLEM.

4. BOTHA SAID THAT THEY WERE NOT TURNING DOWN THE YOUNG
VISIT, BUT RATHER ASKING FOR ITS POSTPONEMENT. HE NOTED
THAT IT CAME IN THE MIDST NOT ONLY OF THE VIENNA MEETING
BUT ALSO A SERIES OF OTHER PLANS WHICH HE HAD INVOLVING
THE BLS COUNTRIES. INCREASING IN HIS CANDOR, HE WENT
ON TO SAY THAT THE ATMOSPHERE IN SOUTH AFRICA IS VERY
BAD FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG. THE BAD FEELING IS NOT
RESTRICTED TO THE AFRIKANER COMMUNITY, BUT IS SHARED BY
THE ENGLISH AS WELL. BOTHA WENT ON TO NOTE THAT HE
WAS IMPRESSED BY HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND
CAME BACK TO SOUTH AFRICA DETERMINED TO WORK FOR A
SOLUTION OF THE RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN PROBLEMS. BUT
THE "CONTINUED TORRENT OF INSULTS" MAKE IT ESPECIALLY
DIFFICULT TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH HE COULD GET
APPROVAL FOR THE CHANGES IN ATTITUDE AND POLICY WHICH
ARE REQUIRED.

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5. AT THIS POINT, I REFERRED TO HIS EARLIER STATEMENT
REGARDING POSTPONEMENT, AND ASKED HIM ABOUT THE TIME
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SAYING ONLY THAT IT IS HARD TO BE SPECIFIC AND THAT THE
MONTH OF MAY IS BAD. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF IT IS
DIFFICULT FOR US TO GO AHEAD WITH THE VIENNA MEETING,
IT COULD BE PUT ON ICE. I RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD NOT
WISH TO DO THIS, CONSIDERING THAT THE TALKS COULD HAVE
A VERY BENEFICIAL LONG TERM RESULT. I ASKED WHETHER
LIMITING THE YOUNG VISIT TO A MEETING WITH BUSINESSMEN
AND SEEING A FEW PEOPLE IN THE EMBASSY WOULD NOT BE A
LESS DIFFICULT ALTERNATIVE FOR THEM.

6. BOTHA RESPONDED BY ASKING ME WHETHER WE WERE KEEPING
TRACK OF WHAT YOUNG WAS SAYING ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA.

I TOLD HIM THAT YOUNG WAS NOT GOING TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR
THE PURPOSE OF CAUSING DIFFICULTIES. YOUNG HAD MADE
CLEAR TO US THAT HIS VISIT WOULD BE BRIEF AND WAS

WILLING TO LIMIT IT TO THE BUSINESSMEN'S DINNER AND THE MEETING WITH A FEW PEOPLE IN THE EMBASSY. HE NEVER INTENDED TO MAKE THE VISITS REPORTED IN THE PRESS.

7. BOTHA SAID THEY HAD IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE THAT THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO YOUNG CAME FROM THE US MISSION IN NEW YORK. BOTHA CONTINUED THAT NOW WE WERE EXERTING PRESSURE ON THEM TO ALLOW THE VISIT. WHAT ARE WE TO THINK, BOTHA ASKED RHETORICALLY, IF WE MEET IN VIENNA AND THERE IS ANOTHER TORRENT OF STATEMENTS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. I HASTENED TO POINT OUT TO BOTHA THAT MY CALL WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE UNWARRANTED PRESSURE. I WAS TRYING TO REASON WITH HIM ON THE BASIS OF THE LONG TERM INTERESTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. AGAIN, I ASKED HIM TO RECONSIDER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPLICATIONS IF THEY INSISTED ON THEIR POSITION IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE.
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THING IN THE MORNING AND GET IN TOUCH WITH ME TOMORROW BY TELEPHONE. CHRISTOPHER

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DRAFTED BY:SS:PTARNOFF
APPROVED BY:MR.TARNOFF
DESIRED DIST:S/S ONLY

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O 112146Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106075

NODIS
CHEROKEE FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG ONLY FROM TARNOFF

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 106075 (TOSEC 040133), SENT ACTION
USDEL SECRETARY MAY 10TH.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106075 TOSEC 040133

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CHEROKEE, FOR SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652:XGDS-3

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THING IN THE MORNING AND GET IN TOUCH WITH ME TOMORROW BY TELEPHONE. CHRISTOPHER
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, AMBASSADORS, VISITS, AIDE MEMOIRE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 05/10/77
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WGBOWDLER:SBA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: STATE
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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SAS ID: 2580074
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOTH A ON YOUNG VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SF, (YOUNG, ANDREW), (BOTH A, PIK), (BOTH A, S P)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/31034597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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22 May 2009
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